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Globalisation is an on-going process by which the constraints of geography recede, social and cultural relations acquire distanceless and borderless qualities and the world becomes a single place. Our day-to-day activities are influenced by the happenings in other parts of the world. It follows, therefore, that the practices and decisions of local groups and communities can have world-wide repercussions. What is peculiar about the system is that it is mediated by modern means of communications networks and the developing information technology. Among the manifestations of globalisation may be included, apart from communications, the growth and proliferation of multinational corporations and global factories and associations. Regulating agencies deal with matters like ecological problems, taking the world as a single place. Globalisation is not experienced evenly: it is much more experienced in the developed world than in the developing world. Some critics consider globalisation as Western imperialism in disguise and that its principle of openness leads to further exploitation of the less well-off nations.

Introduction

Globalisation is a multi-faceted process. It is much more than an economic process. With it are associated migration, refugee flow, brain drain and the flow of Western culture. Globalisation has led to a systematic decline in the barriers to the flow of products, capital, people and technology. Among the factors, that promote the process, the most basic is economic. Among the economic factors, finance is most important because of the huge amounts of currency that change hands in foreign exchange markets. Globalisation involves the reduced significance of borders, distances and states, and the flow of both tangible and intangible factors. Among the flows may be included ideas relating to authority and governance. As the states hold on sovereignty is threatened, there are the attempts to create supranational structures such as regional associations and free trade agreements. Globalisation tends to make the world homogenous.

Critics of globalisation paint a different picture. They consider the process as another name for Western colonisation. They portray globalisation as a problem for developing countries and view the world economy as not global as there is no effective shift of capital to the developing countries and it is concentrated in the West. The benefits of globalisation are uneven. Non-Western values are ignored and countries that are not well-off are exploited in the name of openness a word used by supporters of globalisation.

Globalisation in the sense of transnational trade, movement of people and transfer of knowledge is not a new phenomenon. Some of the factors linking countries across territorial boundaries of states are as old as the global expansion of Western powers. This (European) expansion was through conquests, trade and was migration. It was mass migration that led to the colonisation of Australia and New Zealand. Global flows since the end of the Cold War have been